
E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

- [Item#1](#)
CHARGING AHEAD: BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF AN INDUSTRY.
Deloitte. Lei Zhou et al. August 2010.

Over the past century, as the automobile gained popularity across the world, there was a dramatic transformation in city planning, infrastructure and distribution systems. While the effects of modern automobile use continue to generate philosophical discussions, perhaps the most controversial debate centers around the impact that nearly one billion cars worldwide are having on the environment. Environmental sensitivities have begun to drive demand for an alternative to the conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.¹ Among the front-runner technologies: the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), a zero-emission vehicle.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/97UKVd> [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#2

GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS SAY OBAMA IS A MUSLIM. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. August 19, 2010.

A substantial and growing number of Americans say that Barack Obama is a Muslim, while the proportion saying he is a Christian has declined. More than a year and a half into his presidency, a plurality of the public says they do not know what religion Obama follows. The survey finds that nearly one-in-five Americans (18%) now say Obama is a Muslim, up from 11% in March 2009. Only about one-third of adults (34%) say Obama is a Christian, down sharply from 48% in 2009. Fully 43% say they do not know what Obama's religion is. The survey was completed in early August, before Obama's recent comments about the proposed construction of a mosque near the site of the former World Trade Center.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/b5u0EC> [PDF format, 38 pages].

Item#3

HEALTH CARE SPENDING: 1998, 2003, AND 2008. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. August 2010.

How have rising health care costs affected household budgets? That question was raised many times before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, whose goal—as the act's name implies—is to make health care more affordable for American families. This analysis of Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data from the 1998, 2003, and 2008 Interview Surveys provides a picture of nominal out-of-pocket health care spending among households categorized by the age of the reference person.

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/cBXuns> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

HOUSING CLOUDS ECONOMIC RECOVERY. Council on Foreign Relations. Roya Wolverson. August 25, 2010.

Dismal U.S. housing data and uncertainty over the Obama administration's housing plans are adding to fears of another recession--and raising new concerns over the global recovery.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/9DouTY> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

IS A MOSQUE NEAR GROUND ZERO A BAD IDEA? Council on Foreign Relations. Richard N. Haass et al. August 24, 2010.

Five experts address the controversy over the proposed Islamic center near the 9/11 attack site in New York, the foreign policy implications, and how the issue should be resolved.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/a0i8BE> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

MOSQUE CONTROVERSY, IRAQ WAR DOMINATE THE NEWS. Project for Excellence in Journalism. August 24, 2010.

A statement of support for religious freedom by President Barack Obama fueled an ideologically driven debate in the media over a proposed Islamic center in New York last week. A milestone in the Iraq war, continued economic travails and a mostly hung jury in a corruption case involving a former governor also vied for attention.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/d0Oo6d> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

PUBLIC REMAINS CONFLICTED OVER ISLAM: NYC MOSQUE OPPOSED, MUSLIMS' RIGHT TO BUILD MOSQUES FAVORED. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 24, 2010.

The public continues to express conflicted views of Islam. Favorable opinions of Islam have declined since 2005, but there has been virtually no change over the past year in the proportion of Americans saying that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence. As was the case a year ago, slightly more people say the Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than other religions (42%) than say that it does (35%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/9EV6rX> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#8

THE RECOVERY ACT: TRANSFORMING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY THROUGH INNOVATION. Vice President of the United States. August 2010.

The report finds that the Recovery Act's \$100 billion investment in innovation is not only transforming the economy and creating new jobs, but helping accelerate significant advances in science and technology that cut costs for consumers, save lives and help keep America competitive in the 21st century economy.

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/bSWe8z> [PDF format, 50 pages].

Item#9

TOP TEN REASONS NOT TO RAISE THE RETIREMENT AGE. Economic Policy Institute. Ross Eisenbrey. August 24, 2010.

At a time when more Americans are living longer, raising the retirement age may seem like a good way to strengthen Social Security. Ross Eisenbrey explains why it is not.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/caNlIO> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#10

U.S. MILITARY FORCES AND POLICE ASSISTANCE IN STABILITY OPERATIONS: THE LEAST-WORST OPTION TO FILL THE U.S. CAPACITY GAP. Strategic Studies Institute. Dennis E. Keller. August 24, 2010.

Stability operations in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be challenged by the lack of effective local police forces to secure the civilian population from insurgent infiltration and criminal violence. Given U.S. government legal and organizational shortfalls to train and advise foreign police forces, coupled with an operational environment characterized by local police corruption and abusiveness, this monograph proposes a way ahead for effective community based policing despite these adverse circumstances.

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/cOZPsF> [HTML format with a link].